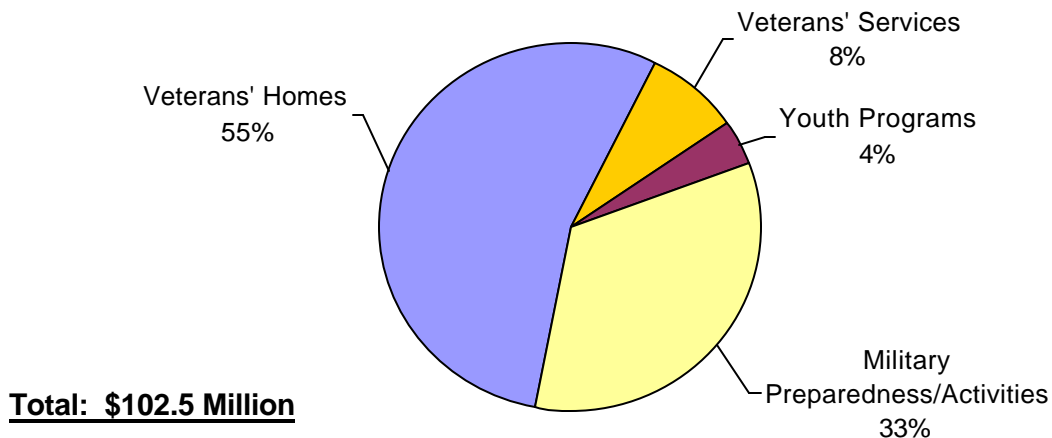


Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has dual missions: administration of state-regulated services to veterans, and military preparedness to assist both state and federal authorities. At the state level, the department's mission is to protect the lives and property of Michigan residents during times of natural disaster or civil unrest. The department also assists the federal government in defending sovereign interests of the United States. Over 1,300 National Guard members and reservists called to active duty have been mobilized throughout the world as part of a military readiness campaign against terrorism. Equally important is the supervision of the veterans' homes, administration of grant monies to veteran service organizations and oversight of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2004 recommends total funding of \$102.5 million, of which \$36.0 million is general fund.

Almost Two-Thirds of Budget Provides Services to Veterans



Department Priorities

Military Readiness

- Recruit and retain an all volunteer force of citizen soldiers to provide for both federal and state missions.
- Provide National Guard soldiers with adequate facilities, training areas and equipment to maintain mission readiness.

Homeland Security

- Develop procedures, protocols and exercises to assure homeland security, including the protection of the State's vital resources.

Services to Veterans

- Provide nursing home care to aged veterans consistent with state and federal standards.
- Provide retirement benefits to Michigan National Guard members.

Military and Veterans Affairs Budget Highlights

- ◆ The Governor's fiscal year 2004 budget maintains full funding in the amount of \$55.5 million for both the Grand Rapids Veterans' and the Jacobetti Veterans' state-licensed nursing care facilities, while utilizing available federal and state restricted resources to offset \$1.4 million in general fund support. The fiscal year 2004 budget recommendation supports continued levels of excellent domiciliary, skilled, and special needs care to Michigan veterans.

"I will create the position of Advisor for Homeland Security within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to more directly link our security efforts here in Michigan with the country's defense preparations in Washington. We will be ready to answer the nation's call to service at a moment's notice."

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
State of the State Address, February 2003

- ◆ The Governor's fiscal year 2004 budget maintains full state and federal support of \$23.8 million for 49 armory locations, and 8 major military training sites and support facilities statewide in an effort to ensure a constant state of military preparedness.
- ◆ Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund resources of \$4.8 million are included for provision of various services to veterans including emergency grants for housing, utilities, food, medicine, and tuition assistance grants for the children of disabled or deceased veterans.
- ◆ Guard members will benefit from \$1.3 million in general fund support for the National Guard Educational Assistance Program. This continues the direct educational investment in our Michigan National Guard members and works to ensure a better-educated guard force to meet the challenges of our future.
- ◆ Continued support for the Michigan Youth ChalleNge Academy is provided in the amount of \$3.3 million. These resources will provide high school dropouts and at-risk youth, an opportunity to become productive members of society upon graduation from this 22-week residential boot-camp style program. A shift to an increased reliance on private resources allows the program to continue while providing general fund savings of \$1.3 million.
- ◆ The Executive Budget includes \$600,000 in federal support for continuation of the Starbase program, which provides public school students in the Mt. Clemens and Detroit areas with new educational opportunities via hands-on experience in math and science applications.

Fiscal Year 2004 Governor's Recommendation
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
(\$ in Thousands)

	FY03 Enacted	FY03 Current Law	FY04 Recommended	% Change
GF/GP	\$40,082.6	\$38,328.3	\$36,012.0	-10.2%
All Funds	\$103,364.7	\$101,610.4	\$102,510.7	-0.8%

[illegible]

